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**Environment Department Lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for  
Punta de Agua MDWCA in Torrance County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Punta de Agua Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) in Torrance County to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Punta de Agua MDWCA, located in Torrance County approximately 6 miles from Mountainair, was put on a “boil water order” on September 3, 2004 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *Fecal Coliform*. NMED required that the Punta de Agua MDWCA water system notify all consumers served by the water system of this finding.

Recent testing of the system showed no bacteriological contamination, allowing the “Boil Water Order” to be lifted.

Users of the Punta de Agua MDWCA water system in Torrance County had been asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

The presence of *Fecal Coliform* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *Fecal Coliform* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *Fecal Coliform* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *Fecal Coliform* or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

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